

## Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

OMB-01 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19 IO-12 RSR-01 INRE-00 /135 W  
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P R 160822 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8367

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 2205

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS PK IN

SUBJ: BHUTTO ON RESUMPTION U. S. ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN.

REF: ISLAMABAD 2186

SUMMARY: IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT ON PARTIAL LIFTING OF US ARMS EMBARGO, PRES BHUTTO ( IN ADDITION REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL) URGED THAT PRIMIN GANDHI ACCEPT HIS INVITATION VISIT PAKISTAN FOR SUMMIT TALKS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE. HE DENIED PAKISTAN INTENDED EMBARK ON ARMS RACE WITH INDIA, POINTING OUT THAT PAKISTAN' S SIZE AND GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION WOULD MAKE SUCH RACE COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY

1. MARCH 16 PRESS CARRIED FULLER ACCOUNT OF PRES BHUTTO' S MAR 15 REMARKS TO POLICE COLLEGE AT SIHALA REGARDING RESUMPTION LIMITED US ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN. IN ADDITION REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL, PRESS QUOTED PRESIDENT AS SAYING HE WAS MAKING " THIRD AND LAST REQUEST" THAT " OUR INVITATION" TO PRIMIN GANDHI TO  
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VISIT PAKISTAN FOR DISCUSSIONS ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, INCLUDING QUESTION OF PAKISTANI POWS, BE ACCEPTED. HE SUGGESTED MRS. GANDHI NOT WORRY ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH VISIT WOULD BE FAILURE, REMARKING THAT EVEN IF VISIT DID FAIL THERE COULD BE FURTHER MEETINGS AND NEW METHODS FOUND TO BREAK CURRENT DEADLOCK IN LIGHT EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM FAILURE.

2. CONTINUING, PRESIDENT STATED THAT PAKISTAN DID NOT WISH GET INTO ARMS RACE WITH INDIA. FROM PAKISTAN'S VIEWPOINT, THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF SUCH ARMS RACE BECAUSE PAKISTAN, AS RESULT ITS SMALL SIZE AND GEOGRAPHIC POSITION, WOULD REACH "SATURATION POINT" IN ARMS BUILDUP AFTER WHICH ANY FURTHER MILITARY EXPANSION WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT FOR INDIA, BHUTTO ADDED, IN THAT INDIA WAS LARGER COUNTRY, HAD PRETENSIONS OF BEING A DOMINANT POWER, AND HAD OTHER AREAS TO "LOOK AFTER" SUCH AS BHUTAN, SIKKIM AND NOW EAST PAKISTAN. IF PAKISTAN RAISED ONE ADDITIONAL DIVISION, HOWEVER, INDIA WOULD HAVE TO RAISE FOUR OR FIVE AND THIS PROCESS WOULD PRODUCE SATURATION POINT EVEN FOR INDIA.

3. CONCLUDING, PRESIDENT SAID HE BELIEVED "SUBSTANCE AND HEART OF THE MATTER" WAS DISCUSSION AND DEBATE. HE POINTED OUT THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WOULD ALSO BENEFIT INDIAN ECONOMY.  
SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**TAGS:** MASS, IN, PK  
**To:** DACCA  
KABUL  
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NEA  
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SECSTATE WASHDC

TEHRAN

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